CHARITY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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The recent natural calamities and terrorist attacks have forced us to think more than ever about the misfortunes of those that have lost it all. Extreme poverty is one of the most pressing issues of our age. So charity is a necessity and not an option.

Britain is one of the most generous developed nation in the world when it comes to giving to charity. The importance of charity should be passed onto our society. Britain's fundraising ideas can help motivate young people to give ever more effectively and transform lives around us to make this world a better place.

Britain has a long history of charitable giving. While many charities are still focused on helping the poor and caring for the sick and injured, many others are tackling global issues like climate change, war conflicts, HIV and AIDS.

The UK is actually one of the world's most generous countries, according to the Charities Aid Foundation's 2017 World Giving Index. The UK's overall rating of 50 from 139 is good enough for 11th place.

Today there are over 180,000 registered charities in the UK employing thousands of people to work all over the world on a huge range of issues.

Charities are also a major part of the economy. Charities contribute over £12bn a year to the UK economy – the same as the agricultural sector.

Belarus is ranked 117th in the CAF World Giving Index 2017. Every fifth Belarusian donates money to charity on average.

There are about 400 charities in Belarus. The Red Cross protects and improves the lives of vulnerable people, people in emergency and crisis situations.

"Unihelp" helps sick children, orphans, children from dysfunctional families, as well as low–income and large families.

The work of "Children's Hospice" is aimed at helping hopelessly sick and dying children. Emphasis is placed on rehabilitation, when the condition is stable and the process of deterioration is slow.

"Animal Rescue" picks up owners for homeless animals, organizes the over–keeping of dogs and cats for the period of sterilization, looks for food, medicines, vitamins, leashes and so on. It needs money and like–minded people.

"Touch to life" attracts funds for the treatment of children with oncological, hematological diseases. It provides social and psychological support to children in need, and also helps baby houses and orphanages.

"Chance" helps seriously ill children, attracts funds for their treatment.

But the Belarusian Charity and Health Foundation is the most notable which is a member of the International Charity and Health Foundation and the European Union of Charity Societies.

It is important to encourage anyone to help people in need. The power of one person to cure social ills and support those in need should never be underestimated. A collection of people may have a greater potential to help humanity on this planet, however. This is not only because more people are involved in the effort but also because in a group people can encourage and support each other. A school is an ideal group for helping people in either the local community or the global community.

One of the roles of education should be to help children develop empathy for others and ability to help people who are less fortunate than themselves. Parents and teachers can guide children in this learning process. Young people are often enthusiastic when something interests them. Their enthusiasm for helping others can spread to less motivated people in the school community, in their families, and in the wider community where they live.

So, the list of fundraising ideas for schools include:

- candy and bake sales;
- bottle drives (The premise is simple: collect empty beer or liquor bottles and return them to your local Beer Store. The Beer Store will give you a cash refund per bottle that you return. Then, you can use the refunded money and donate it);
- penny drives (An individual can donate just the pennies from his pocket change, or empty his piggy bank to contribute to the cause. This type of fundraising project can take place in busy areas such as supermarkets or shopping centers, or can involve door–to–door solicitation in communities);
- car washes;
- paying to guess the number of candies in a jar (It's a kind of contest when the person with the closest answer gets the jar of candies);
- selling raffle tickets for a donated item, selling donated items such as plants that students grow from seed, or selling art and crafts created by students or their families. (Local businesses may be willing to make donations for a worthy cause. This is especially useful if the students' families can't afford to do this);
- selling tickets for services performed voluntarily by parents or students. (A student could sell a ticket to mow a lawn, babysit, or pet sit; a parent could sell a service related to his or her career, training, or practical experience, such as making a cake, cutting someone's hair, cleaning gutters, etc.);
- selling tickets for a special event in which all the performers provide their services voluntarily or in which all of the items used at the event are donated. (Examples include a drama performance, a school dance, or a potluck meal. In return for a little publicity, businesses may be happy to donate food);
- holding a "bring and buy" sale or a garage sale (Families donate items that they no longer want and other families buy them);
- selling cookie dough, frozen pies, or gift wrap provided by fundraising companies (Students may receive prizes from a company if they reach certain sales goals);
- holding a competition that has an entrance fee (such as a paper airplane competition);
- sponsored runs or walks. Students can participate in a run, walk, or other athletic event and collect donations from sponsors. The donations can be used to support either an international or a local charity;
- social networking. Most high school students love social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Social networking may be a very helpful way for students to learn about charities, since many charitable organizations have Facebook and Twitter accounts, VKontakte. Social networking sites can also help students publicize a worthy cause that they wish to support.

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